



LIBRARY

140

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1937

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DURHAM :
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC,
1938.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1937

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC,
—
1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART TIME) :

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B..S, D.P.H., B.Hy.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

G. W. RAGG, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. San. Insp. Exam. Bd. (London),
Certs. in Hygiene, etc.

MATRON OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

MISS E. SCORER, S.R.N.

CLERK (HEALTH DEPARTMENT) :

G. A. GILL, Cert. S.I.B.

DURHAM,
MAY, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my eighth annual report being that for the year 1937. This report follows the outline of the Ministry of Health Circular 1650.

The Death Rate is higher than that of the previous six years and the rise appears to be almost entirely due to the increase in deaths from Cancer. This problem of the steady advance of Malignant Disease is one which must be the serious concern of all interested in health and which is engaging the attention of many research bodies. Cardio-vascular disease again heads the list of causes of death with 30% of the total but it must be remembered that heart defects are commonly outstanding features of more or less natural termination of life.

The Birth Rate shows a slight increase but not sufficient to assure us that national feeling towards motherhood is assuming a more rational outlook. Limitation of family is, I believe, based on two main considerations of selfishness and fear; the former disallowing any self denial and the latter inspired by doubt as to the future well being and chance of survival of children.

The Infant Mortality rate is the lowest for ten years which is most encouraging. Whilst it cannot be claimed that this improvement is entirely due to recent advance in health services yet it is, I believe, in large part due to the increased knowledge of the mother as to the sensible care of children, coupled with the better housing conditions in which the children are reared,

Amongst 296 births there was but one maternal death and this fact, taken with the low infant mortality rate, speaks volumes for the high standard of the maternity services of the City.

There was a slight increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever but the cases were generally of a mild type making rapid and complete recoveries. Diphtheria was much more prevalent and in many cases of a severe type making a much increased demand on the nursing staff. The case mortality was 3.6 per 100 which, considering the character of the outbreak I think highly commendable. During the year it was found necessary to admit five cases of Diphtheria and two cases of Scarlet Fever to neighbouring hospitals.

The advent of a modern joint infectious diseases hospital is it would appear, not far distant, but this in no way reflects upon the past efficiency of the service at your present hospital in the work of which I have always had complete confidence. The, change becomes necessary so as to provide new buildings of up-to-date plan and to improve the general amenities.

Steady progress continues to be made in Slum Clearance and rehousing and it is gratifying that the five year programme is being followed almost to time. This year will see the final inquiry held and soon after the last of the removals completed. This does not mean that by then the housing problem will have been finally solved as there will still remain scattered individual houses and places of habitation to be dealt with by closing or demolition orders.

The practice of letting odd rooms being part of a building as a dwelling house must be put an end to as generally speaking essential amenities are lacking. It appears to me that many difficulties in controlling the opening of unsuitable houses would be overcome if the law demanded that a certificate of the local

authority was required before any premises could be occupied as a place of habitation.

The Sherburn Estate has by now grown to a small township, and the needs of the population other than mere housing are very apparent. The question of schools will engage the attention of the Education Authority but there is above all the need for premises where the social life of the inhabitants can centre and develop. There are, I am sure, many agencies willing and anxious to co-operate for the well-being of the people if only buildings are available. If we are to make a success of rehousing it is essential and urgent that something should be done in this direction.

In many cases the behaviour of the young people is anything but good and is often offensive and disturbing to the inhabitants in the district. The young life requires to be organised and disciplined preferably by a resident leader.

I once again desire to record my appreciation of the generous and valuable help given to me during the year by your Sanitary Inspector and I am very pleased that the Committee have decided to retain the services of Mr. Ragg so that he may continue to actively assist in the completion of the housing programme in the compilation and execution of which he has played an important part.

My thanks are also due to the Members of the Committee for their interest and understanding and to the other officials of the Corporation for their kindness and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. KNIBB YOUNG,
Medical Officer of Health.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1936 :—19,300
1937 :—19,310

Number of inhabited houses end of 1936 :—4,680.
1937 :—4,732.

Rateable value :—(1936,) £109,284. (1937), £111,719.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate :—(1936), £418. (1937), £434.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed men in the City at the end of 1936 was 850, being 20% of Insured men employed.

At the end of 1937 the estimated number of unemployed was 502 being 12% of insured men employed.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	277	130	147	Birth-rate (per 1,000
Illegitimate	11	6	5	population) 14.91.

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	7	2	5	Rate per 1,000 total
Illegitimate	1	nil	1	births 27.

DEATHS.

249	123	126	Death-rate per 1,000 population) 12.9.
-----	-----	-----	---

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.	Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (live & still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis nil	nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes 1	3.4
Total 1	3.4

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	50
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births	50
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
249	14	1	5	12	8	34	58	117

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Birth Rate	19.5	17.98	19.8	16.8	15.1	15.0	16.50	14.46	14.04	14.91
Death Rate	13.1	14.16	12.8	13.0	11.9	11.7	11.38	11.70	12.02	12.9
Infant Mortality	93	76	94	57	71	80	72	56	92	50

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1936 OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.		Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	14.9	0.60	12.4	5.8	58
121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.9	0.67	12.5	7.9	62
148 Smaller Towns, (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.3	0.64	11.9	3.2	55
London	13.3	0.54	12.3	12.0	60
Administrative County of Durham	17.28	0.81	11.85	0.12	71
Durham City	14.91	0.41	12.9	6.9	50

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1937.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.....	249	123	126
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.....	—	—	—
Measles.....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever.....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	1	—	1
Diphtheria.....	4	—	4
Influenza.....	13	4	9
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	13	4	9
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	3	1	2
Syphilis.....	2	2	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis....	3	1	2
Cancer—Malignant Disease.....	34	20	14
Diabetes.....	3	—	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	6	3	3
Heart Disease.....	54	31	23
Aneurysm.....	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	15	11	4
Bronchitis.....	3	3	—
Pneumonia.....	11	7	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	4	2	2
Peptic Ulcers.....	1	1	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years).....	2	1	1
Appendicitis.....	3	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.....	2	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases.....	2	—	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	10	3	7
Puerperal Sepsis.....	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes.....	1	—	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.....	8	3	5
Senility.....	20	11	9
Suicide.....	1	—	1
Other Violence.....	12	4	8
Other Defined Diseases.....	16	8	8
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown.....	2	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	49	40	—
Diphtheria	94	111	4
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever.....	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	—
Erysipelas.....	12	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	4	6	14	13	4	5	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	4	3	5	31	30	13	7	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
5 — 10	3	1	3	2	—	—	1	1
10 — 15	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
15 — 20	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—
20 — 25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	6	2	1	1	—	3	1	—
35 — 45	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
45 — 55	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
55 — 65	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	15	6	9	8	4	9	2	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Through the courtesy of the County Police Authority their ambulances are available for the transfer of non-infectious cases at a charge of one shilling per mile. For infectious cases use is made of the motor ambulance of the Rural District Council by an arrangement to pay a flat rate for each case moved.

During the time when the district was suffering an abnormal incidence of infectious disease some delay was experienced in obtaining the removal of patients so that it was proposed that the Council consider the purchase of an ambulance.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In October, 1937, it was decided by the Council to undertake a general scheme of immunisation due to the prevalence of Diphtheria in the City area.

Forms were posted to 1,590 residents and the number of children immunised was 2,213.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin was supplied free of charge to local medical practitioners.

A temporary clerk was appointed to assist in the carrying out of this work.

WATER.

The supply of water in the district continued to be on the whole satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The whole of the Borough is supplied with water by the Durham County Water Board.

HOUSE DRAINAGE DURING THE YEAR.

Drains were examined, tested and found satisfactory on the following premises, by the Sanitary Inspector :—Haig Homes ; Merry Oaks Estate ; Newcastle Road, 1-6 and 8 ; Neville Terrace ; Springwell Drive ; St. Nicholas Drive ; 17, South Bailey ; Neville Hotel ; 50, South Street ; 23, Old Elvet ; Field House Terrace ; St. Monica Grove ; 132a, 137 and 199, Gilesgate ; Neville's Cross ; George Terrace ; Milbank Cottages ; Market Place ; 1, Allergate Terrace ; Magdalene Place ; 2, Maynards Row ; 4, Crossgate ; Long Acres ; Long Garth ; Lowes Barn ; Quarry House Lane ; Sherburn Road ; Globe Cinema, North Road ; Kings Arms, Claypath ; Market Hotel, Market Place ; Messrs. Woolworth's, Market Place ; 1-14, Cross View Terrace ; 1-8, Kiplings Terrace ; 1-4, 10-12, and 16-19 Carter Terrace ; 1-7, Scotts Cottages ; Springwell Cottage ; Lowes Barn Farm ; St. Cuthbert's Church ; 37, The Avenue ; 36, Hallgarth Street ; Farewell Hall ; Homer Terrace ; 1-9, Prospect Terrace ; 60, Western Hill ; Fern Hill Cottage ; Nevilledene Hotel ; Blue Coat School ; Messrs. Marks and Spencer, Silver Street ; Ebenezer Cottage, Claypath ; Palladium Cinema ; Tilley's Yard, Walkergate ; County Hospital ; St Leonard's ; Fenwick Terrace ; Bethel Manse, The Avenue ; Sydney House, The Peth.

Total of 2,807 yards of new drains and 138 inspection chambers.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Tenders have been invited for the reconstruction of the Works at Pot and Glass, and these works when completed, will be capable of carrying the development in that area for many years to come. With the exception of Sewage gravitating to these Works, Sewage Disposal in the City is efficiently dealt with, and the effluents all that can be desired.

The Council are dealing with a proposal to Sewer the South Road area, which will open up many acres for development on

this side of the Town. The owners of the land concerned have promised to contribute towards the cost and to give land for the purpose of suitable Disposal Works.

There are at present, a few houses being built in this area, which until the scheme mentioned materialises will have no sewer connection, and will have to be dealt with in some temporary way.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.

The Baths and Washhouses continue to be popular, and the standard of water purity in the Swimming Ponds is kept at the highest level.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Regular collections are made by the Corporation.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Continued progress has been maintained during the year with conversion of privies and ash closets to the water carriage system.

The following summary shows that 104 conservancy system conveniences were converted to water closets effecting an improvement in the sanitary circumstances of the dwellings concerned and a further safeguard against the spread of disease.

26 ashpits and 80 ash boxes were abolished and dust bins provided in place of them.

ADDITIONAL WATER CLOSETS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	241
New Buildings and Alterations	...	...	...	...	...	27
Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	104
<hr/>						

NUMBER OF WATER CLOSETS.

1936 4723 (Less 2 demolished under
Slum Clearance operations), Chapel Passage).

End of year 1937 ... 5093

CLOSETS WHERE SUFFICIENT SEWERS OR WATER SUPPLIES ARE UNAVAILABLE.

There are 86 closets to which the above applies. These are principally at the Aged Miners' Homes, Garden Street and Cross Street, Houghall, and the rest are at outlying farms and isolated cottages on the outskirts of the City.

	No. of Privies Abolis'd	No. of W.C.'s Substit'd	No. of Ashpits Abolis'd	No. of Dust Bins Substit'd	Date.
Garden Villa—Back Neville					
Terrace 	1	1	1	1	June.
Albert Cottage—Blackie Boy	1	...	1	...	"
199, Gilesgate 	1	1	1	1	"
Moody's Buildings 	3	3	3	...	"
Bridge House—Crossgate					
Moor 	1	1	1	1	July.
1 and 2, Maynard's Row	2	2	2	2	August
Lowes Barn Farm 	1	1	1	1	Sept.
Fern Hill Cottage 	1	1	1	1	October
Springwell Cottage—Field					
House Lane 	1	1	1	1	"
Cross View Terrace 	14	14	14	14	
	26	25	26	22	

	No. of Ash Closets Abolis'd	No. of W.C.'s Substit'd	No. of Ash Boxes Abolis'd	No. of Dust Bins Substit'd	Date.
1-8, 13 and 14, George Terrace, Neville's Cross	9	9	9	9	June.
Moore House, Neville's Cross	1	1	1	1	"
Lambton, ...	1	1	1	1	July.
Sandside, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Otterburn, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Kimberly, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Ushaw, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Dunelm, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Auton, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Clyde, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Rose Trce, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Gardenia, ...	1	1	1	1	"
Railway Cottages—Quarry House Lane	7	7	7	7	"
1-7 Scott's Cottages—Neville's Cross	7	7	7	7	Sept.
1-5, 9-12, 14-19, Carter Terrace	15	15	15	15	"
1-8, Kipling's Terrace—Lowes Barn	8	8	8	8	"
West View—Stone Bridge ...	1	...	1	...	"
37, The Avenue	1	1	1	...	"
1-6 and 8, Newcastle Road, Neville's Cross	7	7	7	7	October
1-7 and 9, Prospect Terrace, Neville's Cross	8	8	8	8	"
60, Western Hill	1	1	1	1	"
9 and 10, Fenwick Terrace, Neville's Cross	2	2	2	2	Dec.
3, 4 and 5, Homer Terrace, Neville's Cross	3	3	3	3	"
	80	79	80	78	

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1937.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions	10	—	10
Structural Defects	359	1	359
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Lodging-houses	4	—	4
Dairies and Milkshops	—	—	—
Cowsheds	29	—	29
Bakehouses	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	42	—	42
Ashpits and Privies	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	32	—	32
Waterclosets	108	—	108
Defective Yard Paving	10	—	10
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps	—	—	—
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
Other Faults	27	1	27
Water Supply	4	—	4
Pigsties	—	—	—
Animals Improperly Kept ...	5	—	5
Offensive Trades	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	3	—	3
Other Nuisances	25	—	25
Rat Infestation	9	—	9
Lack of Sanitary Dust Bins ...	49	—	49
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	4	—	4
TOTALS	720	2	720

II.—WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...	nil
Seizures of Unwholesome Food...	...	...	...	...	nil
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Food found Adulterated ...	...	...	...	...	nil

III.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	...	...	346
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	...	...	158

Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	...	...	...	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	...	...	...	nil

IV.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	...	...	241
Number of such Houses occupied during year	...	...	241
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	...	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	...	...	25
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	...	...	80
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	...	5083
Total number of Ash-closets in District	...	...	98
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	...	...	51

G. W. RAGG,
Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There has been no action taken with regard to smoke abatement, no complaints of nuisances caused by factory or domestic chimneys were received, but it was found necessary to serve three notices requiring abatement of smoke nuisances in dwelling houses.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary circumstances with respect to cleanliness and water supply is satisfactory no school being closed during the year to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Trough closets at the Blue Coat Schools were abolished and separate hand flushing closets erected in place thereof, together with glazed fireclay urinal stalls in the conveniences for Boys.

SHOPS.

174 shops were inspected during the year in order to ascertain whether the appropriate notices were being posted, also as to whether they complied with the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

Notices were served in respect of five shops which did not comply with the Act.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There were two houses registered and occupied as common lodging houses at the end of the year. The premises have been regularly visited and the best standard maintained as far as possible in these old type of buildings.

Both of the houses will soon be demolished under slum clearance operations.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The number on the register at the end of the year was :— Factories, 55 ; Workshops, 59 ; Workplaces, 7 ; Bakehouses, 16.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

(1) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Insp'tions	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecu'd.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	50	—	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	44	9	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	7	—	—
TOTALS	101	9	—

(2) DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Reme- died.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	7	7	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS :				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Totals	9	9	—	—

Notices were served for the following defects found and duly remedied :—

Defective drains ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective masonry ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective water closet apparatus and fittings					...	2
Leaking main roof ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
To limewash walls and ceilings of Workshops					...	1
Other Nuisances ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING.**OVERCROWDING.**

In January it was decided by the Council to engage the services of four temporary enumerators and one temporary clerk for the purpose of making a Housing Survey under Part IV of the Housing Act, 1936.

This work was duly carried out, 2,772 working class dwellings being measured up and a certificate of the "permitted number" to occupy each dwelling was sent to the respective owners before the "appointed day" which for the City was the 1st July, 1937.

It was decided to erect 120 houses for the purpose of the abatement of overcrowding but little progress has been made in this direction.

OVERCROWDING ABATED DURING THE YEAR.

	<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>
Private Ownership (Closing and Demolition Orders)	... ...	40 210
Local Authority	... ...	nil nil
Confirmed Clearance Areas	... ...	74 370
	—	—
	114	580
	—	—

SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of overcrowding abated during the course of slum clearance operations since 1934 :—

	<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>	<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>	OVERCROWDED
Milburngate No. 1	... 38	168	29	145	
Framwellgate No. 1					
and Milburngate					
No. 2	... ...	100	457	73	395
Crossgate 1-7, and					
South Street, 1 and					
2	... ...	112	503	81	418
Individual unfit houses	48	201	27	145	
Closing Orders	18	107	15	98	
Framwelgate No. 2	... 39	186	28	157	
	—	—	—	—	—
	355	1622	253	1358	
	—	—	—	—	—

SLUM CLEARANCE.

MILBURNGATE No. 1. CLEARANCE AREA.

The Council's Clearance Order made on the 2nd August, 1933, for this area, comprising 47 separate holdings and one Common Lodging House with a total of 205 persons, was confirmed by the Minister of Health on the 7th February, 1934, and rehousing of tenants began in July, 1934. Demolition of the property was completed by October, 1935, except for one self-contained house excluded from the area by the Minister, purchased by the Council for demolition and still in occupation at the end of the year.

MILBURNGATE No. 2 AND FRAMWELGATE No. 1 COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER.

The Council's Clearance Order made on the 6th June, 1934, for this area comprising 130 separate holdings and one Common Lodging House with a total of 483 persons, was confirmed by the Minister of Health on the 31st October, 1934, and rehousing of tenants began in April, 1936. Demolition of the property was completed by April, 1937, except for one self-contained house excluded from the area by the Minister, also one block of tenement property which was the subject of an undertaking by the owner to use for business purposes.

Plans for the re-development of this site have been approved and work is proceeding on the erection of 28 houses by the Council.

CROSSGATE Nos. 1 TO 7, AND SOUTH STREET Nos 1 AND 2 CLEARANCE AREAS.

The Council's Clearance Order, made on the 5th June, 1935, for these areas, comprising 148 separate holdings with a total of 543 persons was confirmed by the Minister of Health on the 12th March, 1936, and rehousing of tenants began in September, 1936.

Area No. 7 was excluded from the Order by the Minister of Health on the undertaking of the owner to carry out necessary repairs. This work has now been completed.

It is the duty of the respective owners to carry out the demolition of the properties but as little progress has been made the Council should carry out the work in default.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES.

FRAMWELLGATE NO. 2 COMPULSORY PURCHASE AREA.

A Public Inquiry presided over by the Ministry of Health Inspector, W. T. Bowman, Esq., O.B.E., M.I.Struct.E., was held on the 18th February, 1937, into the Council's Clearance Order made on the 4th November, 1936, in respect of this area comprising 240 dwelling-houses and two Common Lodging Houses with a total of 1,020 persons.

Confirmation of the Order by the Minister of Health was received on the 21st May, 1937, and rehousing of the tenants commenced in December, 1937.

ELVET Nos. 1-12 and MAYNARD'S Row, CLEARANCE AREAS.

A Public Inquiry presided over by the Ministry of Health Inspector, G. B. Scotland, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., was held on the 18th November, 1937, into the Council's Clearance Order made on the 4th August, 1937, in respect of these areas comprising 158 dwelling houses with a population of 627 persons.

Up to the present no confirmation of the Order has been received from the Minister of Health.

CLAYPATH AND GILESGATE CLEARANCE AREAS.

Representation of these areas will be made by the Medical Officer of Health during the ensuing year.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Under the Five Year programme of Slum Clearance, approximately 1,210 dwellings and other premises have been inspected with a view to treatment as Clearance Areas, Individual Unfit Houses or for Closing Orders.

Particular attention to detail is required in these inspections as each one is a potential appeal to the Ministry of Health or the County Court.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Five Council houses and 22 other houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and were subsequently disinfested, during the year.

The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses are as previously described in the Annual Report for 1936.

When it is known that houses are bug infested every assistance either by supervision or instruction and in some cases actually carrying out of the work is given to owners and tenants to enable them to clear the premises of vermin.

In the course of slum clearance operations during the year 172 tenants were removed to new Council houses after disinfestation of their belongings and dwellings, this work being carried out by the Corporation.

DISPLACEMENT OF TENANTS.

During the past year steady progress has been made in the removal of tenants from Confirmed Clearance Areas or after treatment of certain properties by the methods detailed in the Housing Acts.

172 tenants comprising 740 persons were displaced as follows :---

	<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>
Crossgate Nos. 1 to 7 and South Street		
Nos. 1 and 2 Clearance Areas	...	69
Framwelgate No. 2 Compulsory Purchase		279
Order	...	39
Individual Unfit Houses	...	186
Closing Orders	...	42
Abatement of Overcrowding	..	164
		72
		8
		39

HOUSING SUBSIDIES.

The Minister of Health is proposing at an early date to make alterations in subsidies payable with respect to slum clearances and the relief of overcrowding.

Local Authorities are to be permitted to receive full subsidies with respect to persons displaced from unfit areas where new houses are ready for occupation by the end of the year. It is proposed to make uniform grants as regards this class of house and those provided to deal with overcrowding.

ERECTION OF HOUSES.

The total number of additional houses erected prior to the close of last year in connection with various housing schemes, exclusive of 489 erected in connection with Clearance Schemes, is 183

This being a total of 672.

The number erected during 1936 under Clearance Schemes, was 189

The number erected by private enterprise since 1919 with the aid of subsidies under the Housing Act, is ... 25

The number erected since 1919 without the aid of a subsidy is 355

The total number of additional houses erected since 1919, inclusive of 489 erected in connection with Clearance Schemes, is 1052

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

In the inspection of houses careful attention is paid to any want of repair. Particulars are given elsewhere in the report of action taken under the Public Health Acts and results achieved under the heading of "Summary of Work Done." In addition to

this, under the Housing Act, 1930, the following repairs were carried out :—

Defective floors and stairs	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective ceiling and wall plaster	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective doors and doorways	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective eaves gutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective outhouse walls, roofs and doors	...	...	...	...	...	3
Leaking main roofs	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective windows	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective fireplace brickwork and firebars and defective brickwork and masonry	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective yards and passage pavings	...	...	...	...	...	3
To remedy damp walls	...	...	...	...	...	6

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.						
a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	128
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	256
(2) a. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	6
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	12
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	6
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	122

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE
OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in
consequence of informal action by the Local Authority
or their officers 122

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing
Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring repairs 6
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit
after service of formal notices :—
 (a) By Owners 6
 (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 122
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
defects were remedied after service of formal
notices :—
 (a) By Owners 122
 (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... nil

C.—*Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing
Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made 12
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance
of Demolition Orders 8

D.—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 15

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(4) HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.							
A. (1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	299
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	299
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	1442
B. (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	580

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 14 Cowkeepers, 21 Dairies and Purveyors of Milk, 20 shops supplying milk in bottles and 26 Registered Purveyors with premises outside the area.

During the year Mr. Charles Cecil Crozier, of Crook Hall Farm was granted a license by the County Council to produce " Accredited Milk " under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The standard for " Accredited Milk " is that it shall satisfy a methylene blue reduction test and shall be found to contain no coliform bacillus in one-hundredth of a millilitre.

A sample taken from the herd of Mr. Crozier and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was found to comply with this standard.

Two Supplementary Licences were granted by the Council in respect of graded milk sold from shops or other establishments which are outside the area of the licensing authority.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Periodic inspections of the Cowsheds and Dairies are made by the Sanitary Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The Cowsheds and Dairy at Crook Hall Farm have been altered and equipped so as to comply with the approved standard required for the production of "Accredited Milk," there now being four "Accredited Milk" producers in the City Area.

At most of the farms the conditions essential for the production of clean milk were very satisfactory. It was found necessary to write to the owners of two farms relative to structural defects in Byres and other buildings. Notices were served to limewash the ceiling and interior roofs and walls of every cowshed in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

In accordance with the 1924 Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 2,624 animals were inspected after slaughter during the past year, consisting of :—

Bovines, 536 ; Sheep, 1,776 ; Pigs, 503.

Judgment of diseased meat was carried out on the lines of the recommendations of the Ministry in Memo. 62 "Foods" and the following were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

The entire carcase of a Heifer, including Head and Tongue, affected with Generalised Tuberculosis.

Four Bovine Heads and Tongues affected with Tuberculosis.

Twelve sets of Bovine Lungs affected with Tuberculosis.

Two sets of Bovine Lungs affected with Echinococcus Cysts.

Thirty-six Bovine Livers affected with Distomum Hepaticum.

One Bovine Liver affected with Bacterial Necrosis.

One Bovine Mesentery affected with Tuberculosis.
 One Bovine Viscera affected with Non-Septic Peritonitis.
 One set of Pigs Lungs affected with Tuberculosis.
 One set of Pigs Lungs affected with Pneumonia.
 The Forequarters and Viscera of a Sheep affected with Pleurisy.
 Two sets of Pigs Mesenteries affected with Tuberculosis.
 All animals slaughtered in the are are of first grade quality.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No addition has been made to the number of licensed slaughterhouses during the year there being at present eleven, of which three are to be included in prospective clearance areas in the near future. These premises are carried on in a satisfactory manner and the bye-laws with regard to periodic limewashing are being complied with.

Since the Humane Slaughtering of Animals Act, 1933, came into force, all bovines and pigs have been stunned by means of mechanically operated instruments in accordance with the Act. and at a Special Meeting of the Council held on the 6th January, 1937, the provisions of the Act were applied to sheep by the following resolution :—

That Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, shall on and from the first day of February, 1937, apply to sheep, wethers, rams and lambs.

Consideration should be given to the erection of a Public Abbatoir or central meat slaughtering establishment.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham, and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him for examination :—

Almond Oil	...	...	2	Ground Mace	...	...	1
Aspirins	...	...	2	Lard	...	...	1
Barley	...	...	1	Margarine	...	...	2

Black Pudding	...	...	1	Medicinal Liquid Paraffin...	1		
Butter	...	...	2	New Milk	...	...	32
Camphorated Oil		...	2	Olive Oil	...	...	1
Cascara Sagrada Tablets		1		Pasteurised Milk	...	7	
Castor Oil	...	...	2	Peroxide of Hydrogen	...	1	
Cheese	...	...	1	Pickles	...	...	1
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	2	Pork Sausage	...	...	2
Compound Powder of Liquorice	...	...	1	Powdered Rhubarb Root...	1		
Corned Beef	...	...	1	Purified Cream of Tartar	1		
Galantine of Pork		...	1	Sliced Peaches	...	...	1
Gregory's Powder	...	1		Sterilised Milk	...	...	1
Ground Almonds		2		Tea	...	...	1
				Tincture of Iodine...	...	2	

Total No. of Samples : 78.

Of the 78 samples taken, only one sample of New Milk was reported to be adulterated or below standard, but the deficiency did not warrant the institution of legal proceedings.



